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## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Society of Zoologists will meet from December 28 to December 31, inclusive, at the State University of Ohio, Columbus, simultaneously with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

OFFICERS of the American Astronomical Society were elected at the Pacific Coast Meeting as follows:

*President*, Edward C. Pickering.

*First Vice-president*, W. W. Campbell.

*Second Vice-president*, Frank Schlesinger.

*Secretary*, Philip Fox.

*Treasurer*, Miss Annie J. Cannon.

*Councillors*, W. S. Eichelberger, J. S. Plaskett, E. B. Frost, Joel Stebbins.

THE Swiss Society of the Natural Sciences, the national association for the advancement of science, meets this year at Geneva, from September 12 to 15. It is the ninety-seventh annual meeting of the society and the hundredth anniversary of its foundation, but in view of the existing circumstances this anniversary will be celebrated in only a simple way, and the usual invitations to foreign scientific societies and scientific men are this year omitted. The papers before the general sessions, partly in French and partly in German, are as follows: "New Light in the Investigation of the Jura Mountains," by Professor A. Heim, of Zurich; "Results of Forty Years of Measurements of the Glacier of the Rhone," by Professor E. L. Mercanton, of Lausanne; "An Archipelago of the Pacific," by Dr. Fritz Sarasin, of Basle; and "The International Phyto-geographic Excursion through North America," by Dr. E. Rübel, of Zurich.

CHARLES LEE CRANDALL, professor of railway engineering and geodesy in the college of civil engineering of Cornell University, from which institution he graduated in the first class and where he became a teacher in 1872, has retired from active service. Both the university faculty and the trustees have passed resolutions in appreciation of his services to the university.

DR. ALBERT C. SEWARD, professor of botany in the University of Cambridge, has been

elected master of Downing College, in succession to the late Professor Howard Marsh.

THE Moxon gold medal of the Royal College of Physicians has been awarded to Professor J. J. Déjerine, and the Baly gold medal to Dr. F. Gowland Hopkins.

THE Munich School of Technology has conferred its doctorate of engineering on Dr. von Brill, professor of mathematics at Tübingen, and on Dr. Schwager, of the Geological Survey.

DR. M. STANDFUSS and Dr. A. Querbain have been made honorary professors in the University of Zurich, the former in entomology, the latter in meteorology.

DR. ERNST SCHMIDT, professor of pharmacological chemistry at Marburg, has celebrated his seventieth birthday.

PROFESSOR BÉHAL has been made director of a department for the study of questions of chemical manufacture with special reference to the war, established by the French ministry of commerce in the Paris School of Pharmacy.

DR. JAKOB VON WEYRAUCH, professor of engineering in the Stuttgart School of Technology, has retired from active service.

AN action was brought in the Chancery Division by Professor Arthur Schuster, one of the secretaries of the Royal Society, against the publishers and printer of *Pearson's Weekly*, in respect of an article suggesting that Professor Schuster's private wireless apparatus was discovered and "seized." Defendants offered an ample apology, paid the costs, and gave fifty guineas to the Red Cross funds.

PROFESSOR E. L. NICHOLS, of the department of physics of Cornell University, who has leave of absence for the first term of the coming year, will spend that period in the far east.

DR. A. J. HERBERTSON, of Wadham College, Oxford, professor of geography in the university, and well known for his contributions to geography and meteorology, died on July 31, at the age of fifty years.

DR. EDMUND OWEN, a London surgeon who had made contributions to surgery and anatomy, died on July 23.

THE death is announced in his seventy-second year of Mr. George Newlyn, formerly connected with the Kew Botanical Garden and a writer in popular science.

M. F. P. J. GUÉGUEN, late professor of botany in the School of Agriculture at Grignon, has died at the age of forty-three years.

DR. JIORDANO, professor in the University of Palermo, known for his work on the diseases of miners, died on July 10.

DR. ALFRED SCHLIZ, the German anthropologist, has died at Heilbrun, at the age of sixty-six years.

FOLLOWING out the provisions of the late Mrs. Keenan, who left \$300,000 to establish and maintain a free medical dispensary in Milwaukee, a meeting is soon to be held between the trustees of the fund and the city health department to work out the arrangements as contemplated in the will.

DURING the present summer the regents of the University of New Mexico have instituted a survey of the lands in the university state endowment, of which there are nearly 300,000 acres still owned by the university. Charles T. Kirk, of the New Mexico Natural Resources Survey, and John D. Clark, of the department of chemistry at the University of New Mexico, have been placed in charge of the work.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. EDGAR NELSON TRANSEAU, now a professor in the Southwestern Normal School, Charleston, Ill., goes to Ohio State University next year as professor of plant physiology.

PROFESSOR ROY H. PORTER, of Iowa State College, has become head of the department of mechanical engineering at the New Hampshire College to succeed Professor Richard E. Chandler resigned. Professor Porter took his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Maine in 1906 and the degree of mechanical engineer at Iowa State College in 1912. He has been instructor in mechanical engineering at Iowa State College, was made assistant professor there in 1908 and associate professor in 1913.

AT Bryn Mawr College Dr. Frederick H. Getman, associate professor of chemistry, has

resigned, and Dr. James Llewellyn Crenshaw has been appointed associate in physical chemistry. Dr. Crenshaw has been instructor in chemistry in Centre College and in Princeton University. From 1911 to 1915 he has been research assistant in chemistry in the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

DR. P. H. RÖMER, director of the Institute of Hygiene at Greifswald, has been called to Halle as successor to Professor Fränken.

PROFESSOR HARRIES, of Kiel, director of the chemical laboratory, has declined a call to Göttingen.

DR. KONRAD PICHORIUS, professor of ancient history at Breslau, has been appointed professor at Bonn, as successor to Professor Ulrich Wilcken.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### ELEMENTARY MECHANICS

THE letter of Professors Franklin and MacNutt<sup>1</sup> is a helpful contribution to the discussion of the laws of motion. I wish especially to endorse their remarks upon the law of action and reaction. The idea that action and reaction, because equal and opposite, are balanced forces, is responsible for more confusion, perhaps, than any other error connected with the laws of dynamics. An instance of this occurs in a comparatively recent article in which the author assumes that a body acted upon by an unbalanced force must be retarded by an equal and opposite "ether-friction" in order to satisfy the law of action and reaction; forgetting that if such were the case the force would really be balanced and the body would have no acceleration. The explanations given by Professors Franklin and MacNutt of the second law of motion and of popular and scientific usage regarding the terms mass and weight are also, in the main, calculated to promote clear thinking about these matters. That "the result of weighing a body on a balance scale" is a proper measure of "amount of material," however, certainly requires explanation to the beginner.

The writers apparently attribute to me some

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, July 9, 1915, p. 56.